



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Three Washington Seminars in 1960

Members of the United Church of Christ are invited to participate in one of three seminars in Washington in the early months of 1960:

February 2-4—*Seminar on the Christian Farmer and His Government*, sponsored by the National Council of Churches.

February 23-26—*Churchmen's Washington Seminar*. (Interdenominational. The CC quota is 24 and the E and R is 18.) The theme this year will be "Church and State: Partners for Peace." Speakers will include Hon. Paul G. Hoffman, Managing Director of the United Nations Special Fund, and the Rev. Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, Associate General Secretary of the World Council of Churches.

April 26-28 — *CCSA Washington Seminar*, United Church of Christ. Director: Miss Fern Babcock.

The cost of participation in each of these seminars is from \$35 to \$50 for the days in Washington. Some scholarship help is available. For information and registration, Congregational Christians could write Miss Fern Babcock, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y., and Evangelical and Reformed members should write to Rev. F. Nelsen Schlegel, 2969 West 25th Street, Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Editor of Christian Community On Exchange Program

The Reverend Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director of the Council for Christian Social Action, is presently in Germany as a participant in the Exchange Program sponsored by the German Federal Government.

As part of an interfaith group of religious representatives, he has been meeting with leaders in the churches, welfare programs, cultural and public life in Western Germany since November 1. Some of the cities listed for visits were Bonn, Dusseldorf, Bielefeld, Hannover,

EDUCATOR REPORTS ON TRAVEL IN MEXICO

By Franklin I. Sheeder

"The most satisfying vacation we ever had," was the way one couple reacted to the three weeks' seminar in Mexico last summer, sponsored by the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ. Consisting of sixteen people from nine states, and almost equally divided between the two branches of the United Church, the seminar was directed by Nelsen and Charlotte Schlegel of the Council staff in Cleveland.

Beginning in Mexico City on August 6 interviews were held with U. S. embassy officials, Mexican leaders in education, government, agriculture, and in many other phases of Mexican life. From Mexico City the party traveled by chartered bus to Guadalajara, the second most populous city of our neighboring republic. Here the members of the seminar were entertained for four days by Mexican families affiliated with the Church of the Good Shepherd, the Reverend Apolinar Zambrano, pastor.

This church is one of about a dozen congregations in the area which had their

origin in the missionary program of the American Board many years ago. Under the leadership of Mr. John W. Howe, important and significant work in elementary education, in free health clinics for the poor, and in social settlement work is still being carried on.

Other highlights included visits to the Indian village of Charan, and to CREFAL headquarters in Patzcuaro. Charan made evident to the group the disparity in living standards that exists between city dwellers and rural folk throughout much of Mexico. CREFAL, which is the abbreviated symbol for Regional Center for Fundamental Education in Latin America, is a forward-looking program sponsored by UNESCO and several other agencies.

Lazaro Cardenas, former president of Mexico, generously donated his estate to this project, which has been in operation since 1951. Here persons who have been chosen by participating Latin American governments are brought to receive train-

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Members of 1959 Mexican Seminar: l to r.: Mrs. Neuswanger, Dr. Harold Jones, Miss J. Steinmetz, Mrs. H. Jones, Mrs. Unruh, Dr. Sheeder, Cindy Wulling, Mrs. Sheeder, D. Buchhold, Mrs. Schlegel, Mrs. Gibson, Ted Van Dyck, Mrs. L. McCue, Mr. L. McCue, Robert Cuba Jones, tour coordinator. (Not in the picture: Miss N. Stauffer, Nelsen Schlegel). The sculptured figure at top, left, is Pipila, Indian hero in the 1810 Revolution.

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Diagnostic Clinic For Aged Set Up In Philadelphia

(The following story was contributed by Mr. Robert W. Liddell, chairman of the Philadelphia Synod Committee on Christian Social Action.)

A retired electrical engineer in Schenectady New York, reading in the Schenectady Gazette of a community geriatric clinic begun in Philadelphia, discovered what it was that made this clinic not only a worthwhile enterprise, but something different! In his congratulatory letter to Mrs. Dora N. Schatz, secretary of the newly established Northeast Community Geriatric Clinic, he emphasized that too many projects are started by and operated by "well-wishers" outside the "golden-age" group. He was glad to observe that the Philadelphia project is largely the result of the active concern and hard work of the oldsters themselves.

Mrs. Schatz is also president of the Disston Senior Citizens Club. With fellow club members she had often discussed the need for a facility where those on social security, or otherwise limited incomes, could obtain a complete physical checkup. Experience had shown them that older persons neglect to obtain thorough checkups periodically because they simply cannot afford them; then, when serious illness strikes, they find that disease has made inroads which could have been checked if discovered in time.

Active help in establishing such a facility finally came through a group of Christian laymen in the community who had organized the Northeast Council for Christian Social Action. This group represented various Protestant denominations in the community. They recognized that a socially relevant Gospel could not be confined to one congregation, and they were trying to find ways of carrying their influence to the entire community through education and action. They had sponsored two successful community forums, one on the subject of juvenile delinquency and one presenting a Negro leader from Montgomery, Alabama, with a message intended to emphasize the power of aggressive Christian love in overcoming even such obstacles as racial tensions. These forums had been well received by the community, but the Council had not been able to put the "action" part of their program into practice.

Mrs. Schatz read in a community paper a statement of the Council which emphasized their readiness to work with other groups on community problems, regardless of race or religious affiliation. She called the article to the attention of her senior citizens group. Then, at the Council's June, 1958, meeting, when she spoke for her group, the men agreed to establish

a Committee on Problems of the Aging and asked Mrs. Schatz to chair it.

The Committee made a study of what was being done in various parts of the country in this field and discussed it at later meetings of the Council. They found that several states were promulgating legislation particularly aimed at helps of one kind or another for the aging. When they consulted with local and state health authorities, however, they found that there was no present possibility of health department funds being used to operate a diagnostic clinic. Authorities agreed in general that such a facility was needed and expressed the opinion that public health funds would *eventually* be appropriated for such use—but the life expectancy of those in the senior citizens group did not tend to make them satisfied with a hope of help 10 or 15 years in the future!

Encouragement was obtained when Mrs. Schatz visited a free community clinic for children privately sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. This clinic has operated successfully over a period of twelve years, depending upon the generosity of local osteopathic physicians who staffed the Clinic without fee, and donations from interested citizens and the church itself.

The Council sent Mrs. Schatz to appear at a meeting of the local ministerium, to ask the clergy of the community to see what could be done to provide space for a clinic in one of the churches. After discussions in official boards, three churches volunteered space. Mainly because of its proximity to the home of the Senior Citizens Club, the Council accepted the offer of Tacony Baptist Church, and started to work on real plans.

Fortunately, Mrs. Schatz' own doctor, Sidney Richman was extremely interested in the proposed plan and gave his active help in recruiting other doctors. In addition to osteopathic physicians who agreed to work with Dr. Richman, offers were received from a local dentist, an eye specialist, and a foot specialist.

As soon as it appeared that the oldsters' dream might become a reality, it was decided that a separate organization should be set up. Early in 1959 a board of directors was formed, including representatives of the Northeast Council for Christian Social Action and Disston Senior Citizens Club as the co-sponsoring organizations, doctors from the volunteer staff and the pastor of the church where the clinic was to be located. The name

Northeast Community Geriatric Clinic was chosen. Jay B. Hurst, Jr., a member of the Christian Social Action group, was named president of the new organization, Dr. Seymour Piwoz, medical director, and Mrs. Schatz, secretary-treasurer. The group appointed one of its members (an industrial editor) to handle public relations.

Directors immediately set about soliciting funds with which to equip a small clinic. Even *minimum* equipment (examining tables, sterilizers, electrocardiogram, etc.) would cost several hundred dollars. The Northeast Council spent what small funds it had making minor but necessary renovations in the donated space and on small equipment. The Senior Citizens donated their treasury of \$50. Several local churches and individuals responded with donations, and by mid-June 1959 enough equipment was on hand to open the doors.

Local business and political leaders joined nearly 100 older citizens of the community in a dedication ceremony at which Protestant clergy and a Jewish rabbi participated.

News of the planned Clinic had been carried in local community newspapers, and, the week before opening, Mrs. Schatz received a call from Harriet Smith, feature writer for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, asking if she could bring a photographer and do an article on the opening session. She came, interviewed the three patients scheduled for examination the first day, and wrote a sympathetic and very effective two column article which was carried on page 3 of the Bulletin and put on Associated Press wire service to papers throughout the country.

With this national publicity came a deluge of letters from all sections of the country. Other "golden-age" groups wanted to know how it was done; schools wanted stories; an Army chaplain in Annapolis, Md., sent a donation in memory of his mother; a 70-year old man in Florida wrote to say he was planning a trip to New York and asked if he could stop off in Philadelphia for an examination; a New Jersey man wrote claiming that doctors gave him "the brush-off" when he asked for a thorough physical examination, claiming that they did not have time! He wanted to come. A heart-rending letter came from an elderly widow in South Dakota who apparently understood that the Clinic offered resident care and offered to contribute \$50 a month from her social security if she could come and be cared for! A generous friend of Wm. Hurt's in Chicago had sent a \$200 donation to

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Reports on Mexico

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ing in fundamental education for rural communities. After completing an eighteen months' course the persons trained are expected to apply the principles learned in under-developed areas of their native lands.

There was time also for sightseeing at the Pyramids at San Juan Teotihuacan, and in cities like Guanajuato, Toluca and Puebla.

The members of the 1959 Mexican seminar were unanimous in their appreciation of the service which the Council for Christian Social Action is rendering to the people of the United Church of Christ in expanding horizons and opening up new avenues of interest. It was a common conviction of the group that Mexico presents an unusual opportunity to the Protestant churches of the United States to see and to understand the social and economic forces which are moving among the Latin American republics today.

(Dr. Sheeder is Executive Secretary of the Board of Christian Education and Publication of the Evangelical and Reformed Church).

Will Tell of Their Experiences

Members of the 1959 Mexican Travel seminar will be glad to speak of last August's tour. Some of them are prepared to use 2" x 2" kodachrome slides to illustrate their story. Names and addresses are as follows:

- Rev. Donald A. Buchhold, 1617 Story Avenue, Louisville 6, Kentucky
- Mrs. John Walter Gibson, 1008 Shady Way, Wichita, Kansas
- Dr. and Mrs. Harold G. Jones, 1160 North Mountain Avenue, Claremont, California
- Rev. and Mrs. Leslie L. McCue, 813 South Washington Street, Denver, Colorado
- Mrs. C. H. Neuswanger, Watertown Road, Middlebury, Connecticut
- Rev. and Mrs. F. Nelsen Schlegel, 2969 West 25th Street, Cleveland 13, Ohio
- Dr. and Mrs. Franklin I. Sheeder, 702 Main Street, Collegeville, Pennsylvania
- Miss Norma H. Stauffer, 1320 Rusk Avenue, Houston 2, Texas
- Miss Jennie Steinmetz, 1925 Turner Street, Allentown, Pa.
- Mrs. Rudolph T. Unruh, 1132 Marsh, Kinsley, Kansas
- Rev. Theodore H. Van Dyck, 480 San Anselmo Avenue, San Bruno, California
- Miss Lucinda L. Wulling, 613 North 22nd Street, LaCrosse, Wis.

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

- January 17-23—Church and Economic Life Week, sponsored by the National Council of Churches.
 - January 27-31—CCSA Meeting, Buck Hill Falls, Pa.
 - February—United Church of Christ Month of Emphasis on Christian Social Action.
 - February 2-4—Seminar on the Christian Farmer and His Government, sponsored by the National Council of Churches.*
 - February 14—Race Relations Sunday.
 - February 23-26—Churchmen's Washington Seminar (interdenominational).*
 - April 26-28—CCSA Washington Seminar, United Church of Christ. Director: Fern Babcock.*
 - June 6-10—Central Christian Social Action Institute, E and R Conference Center, Dunkirk, N. Y.*
 - June 20-24—West Coast Christian Social Action Institute, White Memorial Retreat Center, Mill Valley, Calif.*
 - June 22-August 23—World Seminar (62 days in 16 countries). Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. Ray Gibbons.
 - June 22-July 7—Hawaiian Seminar. Leaders: Rev. and Mrs. Galen R. Weaver.
 - June 27-July 9—Seventeenth Annual Race Relations Institute, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. Director: Dr. Herman H. Long.
 - July 11-15—Midwest Christian Social Action Institute, Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.*
 - July 25-29—Eastern Christian Social Action Institute, Congregational Conference Center, Framingham, Mass.*
- *For information and possible scholarship help, Congregational Christians may write to Miss Fern Babcock, CCSA, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y.; and Evangelical and Reformed members may write to the Rev. F. Nelsen Schlegel, CCSA, 2969 West 25th Street, Cleveland 13, Ohio.

On Juvenile Delinquency

People who are deeply concerned over the current stories about juvenile delinquency problems around the country will be interested in seeing the October SOCIAL ACTION magazine (published by CCSA, \$2.00 a year, 25 cents each issue). It's on the theme "Juvenile Delinquency," and it carries three main articles:

Roots of Delinquency, by Richard W. Boone, Chicago social worker; *The Role of Government in Preventing Juvenile Delinquency*, by Charles H. Shireman, member of the faculty at the University of Chicago; *The Role of the Church*, by J. Archie Hargraves, Brooklyn minister who was one of the founders of the East Harlem Protestant Parish.

These are articles by people who know the subject well. They can be the basis for study and action in many communities. Two other brief articles review some recent books about delinquency, and offer suggestions for local group action.

The November issue of SOCIAL ACTION will deal with several other subjects of very practical concern: Gambling, Obscene Literature, Traffic Safety, Sunday Observance.

"ALL-NATIONS FESTIVAL" ATTRACTS WIDE INTEREST

The Crossroads Community Church in Lakewood, California, sponsored what witnesses called a "very constructive educational program" on June 26 this year. It was a full Sunday program, with many people of all age groups participating in what has come to be the congregation's annual "All-Nations Festival."

At two morning services Dr. Julian Keiser, Southern California Conference Minister of Social Action, preached on "One World." Then followed this program, which was arranged by the congregation's Council for Christian Social Action:

- 2:45 *PHOTOMURAL EXHIBIT: 28 panels, 3'x4' "The Family of Man."
- 3:15 FOLK DANCES: Long Beach Folk Dance Cooperative. Children were invited to participate.
- 4:00 Adults, in the chapel: SPEAKER: Mr. William White, Human Relations Coordinator for Los Angeles County. His subject was "Inter Group Relations And Its Significance in Our Community Today." Children under 12 in Sunday School rooms: FILM: "The House I Live In"; FILMSTRIP "Sunday Around The World."
- 4:30 FILM ON IMMIGRATION: "The Golden Door"; UNITED NATIONS FILM: "All Worlds."
- 5:00 FILM ON RACIAL UNDERSTANDING: "The High Wall"
- 5:30 AN INTERNATIONAL DINNER: Featuring Oriental, Latin American and European dishes. Served by the women of the church.
- 6:30 SPEAKER: Mr. William White—"Equal Rights in Race Relations."
- 7:00 FILM: "Marian Anderson," with a speaker from the United Nations.

*The photomural exhibit consists of 28 panels prepared by the Los Angeles County Committee on Human Relations. The Exhibit discusses the inter-relation of racial and cultural factors in the human way of life. A catalog describing it can be obtained for 50 cents, plus 15c for postage, from the Los Angeles County Museum Book Store, Exposition Park, Los Angeles 7, California.

The Koinonia Farm

A good friend in Georgia reminds us that Koinonia Farm is again seeking to market a pecan crop. Readers of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY will remember that this project in Americus, Georgia, has been sorely pressed in recent years because of the inter racial nature of its work. Friends in many states have aided the farm by purchasing pecans. They are nicely packaged and make good Christmas gifts.

A post card to KOINONIA FARM, Americus, Georgia, will bring you a price list and order blank.

Diagnostic Clinic

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help the Clinic get started. When the publicity was released, he wrote Hurst that he had mentioned the project to his friend, Col. Jake Arvey, nationally prominent figure, and enclosed a check for an additional \$100 from Col. Arvey.

Originally set up to interview three new patients at each weekly session, the Clinic found it had a backlog of nearly 100 applicants within the first three weeks. More volunteer doctors were recruited and the Clinic is now doubling its capacity—but this involves additional and expensive equipment too, and general expansion is planned.

Hurst comments, "The initial success of our effort has far exceeded our anticipation. When this sort of project was first suggested to our Council, I must admit it was received with a jaundiced eye by some of us to whom the obstacles seemed to loom so large that they overshadowed the challenging objective. We are thankful now that we accepted the challenge, and that God has prospered us in all ways. Considering the inadequacies and limitations of many of us who have been working with this idea, accomplishment of our objective seemed humanly impossible at times. Perhaps the fact that this objective has been essentially accomplished is simply further proof that "with God all things are possible!"

Diagnostic service only, not treatment, is offered to women over 62 and to men over 65 regardless of ability to pay. Where possible a nominal fee of \$1 is collected. At least in the early stages of the Clinic, it has not been necessary to establish any qualification except age. It is hoped that the work can be continued on that basis; however, the board recognizes that some qualifications as to ability to pay may have to be established if the service is abused by those well able to pay. But they express the feeling that they will "wait and see," hoping that it will not be necessary for a staff social worker to screen applicants on this basis.

Specialists on the staff offer gynecological examinations, cancer smear tests, and other special services. Arrangements are made for chest x-rays. Since eye diseases are common among older people, an eye specialist is on the staff.

It is now planned for the Clinic to incorporate as a non-profit organization, and a lawyer has been the latest appointee to the board of directors, offering his services free of charge. Through incorporation it will be possible for donations to be accepted on a tax-exempt basis, the Clinic will be classified in a

category enabling it to participate in government and other help aimed to assist charitable, non-profit organizations, and legal responsibility of the Clinic and those working with it will be fixed.

All this is possible only because doctors contribute valuable time and services without charge, because Tacony Baptist Church donated space, because many friends have cared enough to contribute toward the financial expenses involved. But, most of all, this became a reality because a group of older citizens acted.

Editor on Exchange Program

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Hamburg, Berlin, Munchen, Stuttgart and Frankfurt.

Preceding and following this official tour, the Council for Christian Social Action has made it possible for Mr. Klemme to visit church leaders and to attend conferences in Great Britain and in various western European countries. He will be away from his office until about December 21.

"The Pastor and Community Resources"

—a book by Charles F. Kemp

We have just read the proof sheets for a new book which should be of interest to every pastor, whether he serves in a big city, town or village. It has the above title, and it will be published soon by Bethany Press for the Department of Social Welfare of the National Council of Churches. The price will probably be \$1.50.

In Part I this volume gives a general presentation of the kinds of problems every pastor faces in parish work. It points up the value of cooperative efforts between churches and the resources many communities have for helping people.

Part II lists in alphabetical order the numerous agencies to which pastors can turn for help with social problems they meet. But this is no ordinary catalog of agencies: it describes the functions of agencies, and suggests ways in which they can be useful.

Part III is also arranged alphabetically, giving names and addresses of church-related boards concerned with social problems, as well as those of government and private agencies.

And then there is a fourth part, which every user of the book must write for himself. It offers almost blank pages, with spaces for names and addresses of varied resources he will often want to call on.

Ask your denominational book store to get you a copy of this book.

CHRISTMAS FOR CHRIST

It won't be long until the nation will be flooded again with advertising relating to the celebration of Christmas. In the editor's mailbag is a letter which raises some questions about this advertising.

A lot of money will be spent, for example, extolling the virtues of beautifully wrapped beverages as Christmas gifts. Billboards, T.V., and popular magazines will make them look wonderful.

About all of this the Methodist Board of Temperance says:

YOU CAN ENCOURAGE business firms to hold "spiritsless" Christmas parties. Many business firms and government offices purposely omit all alcoholic beverages from their Christmas office or business parties.

YOU CAN HELP discourage the giving of alcoholic beverages as Christmas gifts.

YOU CAN WORK for highway safety by discouraging holiday drinking and driving. **SAFETY DEMANDS SOBER DRIVERS.**

YOU CAN USE AND ENCOURAGE others to use **CHRISTMAS FOR CHRIST** materials wherever possible.

If you want to work for "Christmas for Christ," without alcohol, write to the Methodist Board of Temperance for information about bulletin covers, car cards, posters, etc. The address is 100 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington 2, D. C.

This would be a good time, too, to have people think again of Alcohol and Christian Responsibility. A small book by this title can be obtained from CCSA offices. The General Board of the National Council of Churches recently issued a *Pronouncement on the Churches and Alcohol* which also deserves study.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

DECEMBER, 1959

News and Program Service of the
Council for Christian Social Action
of the United Church of Christ
Ray Gibbons, Director

Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscriptions, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, \$2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.